

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 101529

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, UK, PDEV

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: INFORMING FRONT LINE AND PF OF
PRETORIA AND SALISBURY TALKS

I. EMBASSY LONDON IS REQUESTED TO CONFER ASAP WITH
FCO TO REACH AGREEMENT ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS,
WHICH WE WOULD THEN ASK US AND UK REPRESENTATIVES IN
FRONT LINE POSTS AND NIGERIA TO PASS TO HOST GOVERNMENT
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OFFICIALS AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL OR BELOW, AND TO
PF, IN MAPUTO AND LUSAKA. NO ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN
BY LAGOS AND FL POSTS UNTIL GO AHEAD IS GIVEN BY
DEPARTMENT AND FCO.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

A. THE UK AND US WISH TO KEEP ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN A GENUINE TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE INFORMED OF ANGLO-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES IN PURSUIT OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

B. AFTER LEAVING THE DAR ES SALAAM CONFERENCE, SECRETARIES VANCE AND OWEN TRAVELLED TO SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA.

C. IN PRETORIA, THEY MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA AND URGED THAT SOUTH AFRICA USE ITS INFLUENCE IN RHODESIA TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE OF THE UK/US CALL FOR A ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE. THE SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSE WAS GENERALLY NON-COMMITTAL. HOWEVER, THE SOUTH AFRICANS MADE THE POINT THAT THEY RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT.

D. IN SALISBURY, THE SECRETARIES MET WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND URGED THE MEMBERS TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO ATTENDANCE AT A ROUND TABLE MEETING. SUCH A MEETING WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REACH A LASTING AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, INCLUDING ALL OF THE IMPORTANT PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT, WHICH WOULD GAIN INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTABILITY.

E. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ASKED THAT THE UK/US ACCEPT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARGUED THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD NOT ALLOW THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO DEVOTE FULL ATTENTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT. THEY ARGUED THAT OVER 80 PER CENT OF THE POPULATION SUPPORTS THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT. THEY FURTHER ASSERTED THAT THE "DOOR IS OPEN" FOR MR. NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE TO RETURN TO RHODESIA.

F. DR. OWEN AND SECRETARY VANCE SAID THAT THE US AND UK COULD NOT ACCEPT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, THAT WE FAVOR NO PARTY OVER ANOTHER, AND THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE MAINTAIN OUR NEUTRALITY AMONG CONTENDING GROUPS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE PLAYING A ROLE IN BRINGING ALL PARTIES TOGETHER.

G. THE TWO SECRETARIES NOTED THAT THE MEETING OF ALL PARTIES WOULD BE WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS; EACH GROUP WOULD NO DOUBT BRING ITS OWN POSITION TO THE MEETING.

H. THE UK AND US WOULD, HOWEVER, BASE THEIR POSITION UPON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS.

ALTERNATIVE TERMS FOR AN AGREEMENT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE
ACCEPTABLE TO BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES IF AGREED
TO BY ALL THE PARTIES AND IF THEY WERE CLEARLY
ACCEPTABLE AND BENEFICIAL TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA
AS A WHOLE.

I. IN CONCLUSION, THE SALISBURY GROUP PROMISED TO
GIVE MATURE CONSIDERATION TO THE UK/US SUGGESTION THAT
THEY ATTEND A ROUND TABLE MEETING. THEY DID NOT
INDICATE WHEN THEY WOULD GIVE A DEFINITIVE REPLY.
WE INTEND TO BE IN FURTHER CONTACT WITH THEM IN ORDER
TO ELICIT THEIR RESPONSE. CHRISTOPHER

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